

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8560

INFO USICA WASHDC

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FOR INR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR

SUBJECT: PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF: STATE 178559

1. MEDIA REACTION TO SOVIET DISSIDENT TRIALS HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE, INCLUDING EDITORIAL COMMENT IN INDEPENDENCE PARTY DAILY MORGUNBLADID, FAR-LEFT THJODVILJINN, UNAFFILIATED AFTERNOON DAILY DAGBLADID, AND INDEPENDENCE PARTY AFFILIATED AFTERNOON DAILY VISIR.

2. JULY 14 MORGUNBLADID EDITORIAL NOTES THAT SOVIET UNION MARKS THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS SOCIALIST SYSTEM BY "HOLDING TRIALS IN MOSCOW AND KALUGA WHICH HAVE AROUSED GREAT ATTENTION AROUND THE WORLD". EDITORIAL STATES "THESE TRIALS ARE NOT ONLY A TRAGEDY FOR THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED BUT ARE ALSO A WARNING TO THE REST OF MANKIND".

3. JULY 15 THJODVILJINN EDITORIAL NOTES SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES ARE CONSTANTLY COMPLAINING OF "ANTI-SOVIET ACTIVITIES" AND YET NO ONE IS BUSIER IN PROVIDING REASONS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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THESE ACTIVITIES THAN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ITSELF. THJODVILJINN STATES: "THE PRESENT TRIALS ARE ADDITIONAL CONFIRMATION THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CRACK DOWN WITH A VERY HEAVY HAND ON ANY AND ALL EFFORTS TO RID (THE NATION) OF STATE CENSORSHIP IN SPEECHES AND WRITING".

4. JULY 11 DAGBLADID EDITORIAL ATTACKS TRIALS IN MOSCOW WHILE NOTING HISTORY OF DISSIDENT MOVEMENT IN SOVIET UNION FOLLOWING HELSINKI AGREEMENTS AND STATES "THE KREMLIN CLIQUE IS NOTHING MORE THAN A CONTINUATION OF THE CZARIST REGIME. THOSE WHO SIT AT THE SEAT OF POWER IN THE KREMLIN ARE TERRORISTS".

5. JULY 15 VISIR EDITORIAL STATES "THESE TRIALS SHOW THE WEAKNESS OF THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM...WESTERN NATIONS CANNOT WATCH IDLY AT ACTIONS OF THIS KIND. SOVIET DISSIDENTS HAVE CALLED ON THE WEST TO END SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINKS WITH THE USSR...ICELANDERS SHOULD HONOR THIS CALL".

6. ADDITIONALLY, JULY 15 VISIR ASKED LEADERS OF ALL FOUR MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES THEIR VIEWS ON THE TRIALS. THE RESPONSES: BENEDIKT GRONDAL, CHAIRMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (SDP): "THE COMMUNIST SYSTEM CANNOT ACCEPT FREE THOUGHT NOR CRITICISM". LUDVIK JOSEFSSON, CHAIRMAN FAR-LEFTIST PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (PA): "I HAVE NOT FOLLOWED THIS MATTER, KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT, AND HAVE NOTHING TO SAY". GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER, CHAIRMAN INDEPENDENCE PARTY (IP): "TRIALS LIKE THESE SHOW HOW JUSTICE IS IN REALITY IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE TRIALS...FORCE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FREEDOM". EINAR AGUSTSSON, FOREIGN MINISTER AND VICE CHAIRMAN PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PP): "A BREACH OF UNCLASSIFIED

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HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE WORST KIND".
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NNN

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